



Dear Future AFSer/Applicant,

Please find enclosed general instructions on obtaining a **Visa** for Egypt. **AFS will obtain this visa for you.** As you will note, obtaining a visa is a detailed and time consuming process, and for this reason, visa information is sent not only to students who are guaranteed, but also to students whose applications are still in review. It is important that you begin preparing for this process immediately. **Visa documents submitted by you later than the deadline (see below) might result in your traveling late or even not being able to participate in the program. You are responsible for any additional cost incurred by your late submission of documents.**

Obtaining a Passport

If you still do not have a passport, you must apply for one **immediately!** You cannot obtain any other type of travel or residence authorization without a valid passport and it will take approximately 4-6 weeks to obtain one. **If you delay in obtaining your passport, you will need to request that your passport application be “expedited” (rushed) which will mean an additional cost.**

Domestic Travel

Regarding your domestic travel to the gateway orientation site, please do not book any tickets until you receive what we call the *Travel Notification Packet* in the mail from the AFS USA Travel and Logistics Department. This packet will give you important detailed information about travel and logistics for your trip. AFS always recommends that participants book domestic tickets that are both refundable and changeable. This is due in part to the possibility of changes in international flights students will be taking to return home, but also due to the fact that complications may arise in obtaining visas and these complications can at times delay a student’s departure. **Please note that participants will be responsible for paying any penalties incurred for changes they may need to make in their domestic travel in the event that they are not able to obtain their visa in time for their scheduled departure.**

Taking Trips Before the Start of your Program

You should not plan any excursions outside of the United States prior to your program. As mentioned before, obtaining a visa takes time and your passport will be required. Should you choose to travel before the start of your program and not allow enough time for AFS to procure your visa, you will run the risk of not being able to participate on this program.

Getting Started

We have included here some additional information concerning the visa application process for Egypt. AFS will obtain this visa for you. **It is very important, however, that you follow the accompanying instructions very carefully and comply with all the requirements.**

Should you have any questions or require assistance, do not hesitate to contact your **Admissions Advisor at 800-237-4636.**

Sincerely,

AFS-Visa Team



VISA INFORMATION

EGYPT YEAR PROGRAM 2008

A **Visa** is required for this program. AFS will apply for this visa for you. In order to do so, please follow these instructions carefully. Any omissions or errors will result in delays, which may jeopardize your travel arrangements.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AFS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1st.

1. UNITED STATES PASSPORT: *Yes, you must send AFS your passport since the visa is a stamp that the consulate will affix to one of its free pages.*

- Must be *signed* and valid at least six months beyond your stay, with blank pages.

If you hold a passport from a country other than the US, please call your Admissions Advisor **IMMEDIATELY** at 1-800-237-4636. Additional documents may be required. If you do not yet have your US passport, you must apply **RIGHT AWAY**. You can not apply for a visa without a valid passport. In some cases, you may have to expedite (a rush service) your passport application at an additional cost. Normal processing time may take 4-6 weeks excluding peak seasons. You can inquire at your local post office about where you can apply.

2. VISA APPLICATION (enclosed)

- Please print clearly when completing this form.

3. ONE (1) PASSPORT-TYPE PHOTOGRAPH

- Please use only a professionally taken passport photo. Do not cut the photo. Snapshots, machine photos, digital prints or graduation pictures are not acceptable.
- Write your name on the back of the picture.

4. U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER FOR \$15

- This covers the visa fee and needs to be made payable to the 'Egyptian Consulate.'
- Do not send cash or personal checks for this fee. Only money orders from the **Post Office** are accepted.

These documents must be received by AFS as soon as possible or no later than May 15th. We recommend that you send your visa items by **FEDERAL EXPRESS, UPS OR DHL** to:.

AFS-USA
International Documents / Egypt NH08
One Whitehall St., 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10004

DO NOT USE REGULAR MAIL. **Note: Remember to keep the tracking number to the package in a safe place*

NOTE: Please do not call AFS to check if your documents were received. AFS will contact you in case something is missing or if documents are not received in time. You can also check with your carrier to see if the package was delivered.

YOUR PASSPORT AND VISA WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AT YOUR DEPARTURE

Before sending your passport, remember to retain a copy for your records. Please check with your airline carrier for an alternative form of identification to travel to your orientation.

AFS will apply for your visa. Visa/residence permit requirements, issuance regulations and fees are established by government authorities and/or consular officials, who reserve the right to make changes at any time. Please note that AFS cannot intercede to revoke decisions made by these authorities. Therefore AFS is not responsible for any changes in requirements or fees that occur after we have provided you with these instructions.